Reforms in Power Sector in Punjab

1870. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA. Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial losses in the power sector in Punjab have been increasing over the years;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring reforms in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per information compiled by the Power Finance Corporation, the Punjab State Electricity Board suffered commercial loss of Rs. 436 crore during the year 2002-03 and Rs. 596 crore during the year 2004-05 while it earned a commercial profit of Rs. 175 crore during the year 2003-04 on accrual basis

(b)The main reasons for increase in losses during the year 2004-05 as compared to 2003-04 are as under:

i. Reduction in Hydel generation which resulted in increase in power purchase cost.

ii. Increase in employee cost.

iii. Increase in Renovation & Modernisation cost

Due to these factors cost of supply increased during 2004-05 as compared to 2003-04 whereas average revenue remained same more or less.

(c) The Government of India has taken the following major initiatives to bring reforms to make power sector competitive and viable:

(i) Past dues of Central Public Sector Companies against State Electricity Boards (SEBs) amounting to Rs. 34,957.96 crores have been securitised.

(ii) Tariff determination is done by independent Regulatory Commissions.

(iii) Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) is assisting States in investment in strengthening of sub transmision and distribution systems for reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising

through cash grants for reduction of cash losses by State Power sUtilities.

(iv) Stringent legal provisions have been made in Electricity Act, 2003 and rules made under the Act for dealing with theft of electricity.

(v) Emphasis is given on metering of feeders and supply to consumers for energy accounting and auditing for identifying location of high losses.

(vi) Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) is implemented to support capacity augmentation through renovation and modernization and new generation schemes.

Functioning of power stations

1871. SHRI C. PERUMAL Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Power Monitoring Centre for monitoring real time data on the functioning of all power stations has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the performance of central power stations has improved after setting up of the Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. National Power Monitoring Centre for monitoring real time data on functioning of all power stations has started functioning *w.e.f.* December, 2005.

(b) Real time power data for all five regions of the country namely Northern, Western, Southern, Eastern and North-East is received. Apart from online data, various off-line data is also being updated.

(c) and (d) Generation & Transmission outages are monitored on daily basis to ensure early restoration which is evident from achievement of all India generation which is 99.1% of the target of generation till February, 2006 and it is expected to achieve the annual target.

(e) Does not arise.